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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re the Application

John G. McCann et al

Serial No.: 10/051,608

Examiner: T. Tran

Filed: January 17, 2002

Art Unit: 1711

For: MOLDED TUBE OF IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office action mailed June 16, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 are pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing a number of rejections.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned in an interview on September 15, 2004. During the interview the claims and rejections were discussed.

II. 35 USC 103 - Claims 1-7 and 9-10

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are rejected as unpatentable over JP 56-045190, in view of Blackwelder (US 5,753,326) and Okuda et al. (US Pat. 6,270,866).

The Office action asserts JP '190 teaches a centrifuge tube comprising pure polystyrene (PS) or styrene butadiene (S-Bu) rubber. The Office action asserts it is obvious to combine two